

West Virginia Writers' Project

RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Readers
Subject Quarries & Industry

Date 6/6/41

Research Worker Samuel G Smith

Date Research Taken 6/4,5,6/41

Typist Samuel G Smith

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Source C.W Price & J.C Morrison
Martinsburg, W. Va.

Date Filed _____

W. Va. Geological Survey by Paul Price.



Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro, W. Va. Pocahontas Co.

Water-Power and present development.

At the present time little or no utilization is being made of the many streams of Pocahontas County in the way of making electricity, save for a turbine installed near the mouth of Clover Creek by the Coyne's of Clover Lick to operate an electric generator. Probably the greatest use to which the streams are put, and even this is infrequent and of small consequence is to propel overshot water-wheels to grind flour and feed, in the latter way there remains five mills but only four that operate throughout the year. These mills are as follows on Stony Creek use to be known as the Geiger mill but now run by the present owner Tolbert Vaughn. The McNeel mill at Millpoint owned by Dr. H. W. McNeel and run by different millers, the Lower Creek Mill owned by Wallace McCoy and run by his son Sidney but only grinds corn. The Hogsett mill or better known as the lower mill at Millpoint was run for years by the late T. W. Hogsett both mills at Millpoint ground both corn and wheat but since the death of Mr Hogsett this mill has been run very little and then only corn was ground but in connection with this mill was a carding machine run by the same power but it has ceased to run on account of the water-power, in the past, due to floods in recent years. The Heavener mill on North Fork above Arbovale is owned by the Cradock's and still grinds wheat, corn, buckwheat and feed, these mills have played a very important part in the development of Pocahontas County, along with some that have ceased to run and

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The term corn ree namely the Isaac Smith mill on Greenbrier River at mouth of
Stevens Hole Run,The McClintic mill at the entrance of McClintic Park,the
Mill mill beyond Jacob and many other small corn mills,were run by water-
power from small streams and waterfalls throughout the county,and many were
the grists of corn ground on these mills that came from what is known as new
ground when our forests were cleared into fertile fields that we till today.

Streams available for water- power development are Greenbrier River
that carries the greater part of Pocahontas County's rainfall,it is made up of
two forks the West Fork coming from the east of Shavers Mountain near Wildell
with an elevation of 3,625 feet,the East Fork heads at Blister Swamp on the
western slope of Allegheny Mountain with an elevation of 3,875 they come tog-
ether at Durbin and make the Greenbrier River proper and it continues its sou-
thwest journey through the county,through Greenbrier County and enters New
River at Bellepoint just below Hinton where the elevation is 1,375 or a drop
of about 2,500 feet making this a stream with plenty of power undeveloped.It
drains an area of about 687.06 square miles in Pocahontas County with a never
failing supply of water.Locust Creek undeveloped save for one grist mill,it is
a tributary of Greenbrier River.Hills Creek which heads high up on Kennison
Mountain flows south to form the Falls of Hills Creek which are very beauti-
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illy and sinks southeast of Lobelia. Stamping Creek whose source is Cran-
erry Mountain sinks up the creek and rises just above Millpoint where it
runs overshot wheels that grind feed and flour, its rate of fall is 251.5
feet per mile. Milling has been done here since the early 80s. The Blue Spring
feeds the main creek while a spring coming out of the Gillan Mountain furnishes
water for the race that runs the McNeil mill. Swango Creek with considerable vol-
ume is fed largely by springs namely McClintic Run, Overholt Run, Dry Creek, Cave
Creek and Bucks Run this stream has considerable fall capable of running an ele-
ctric generator or over shot wheels. Knapps Creek a tributary of Greenbrier Riv-
er with the largest flow of water of any entering the Greenbrier has a fall of
56.2 feet per mile. Stony Creek has a fall of 196.9 feet per mile and on this
stream we find the Waugh mill. Cloverlick Creek whose source is Gay Knob and Cl-
overlick Mountain has a fall of 161.2 feet per mile, near the mouth of this st-
ream is a small turbine that operates an electric generator. Sittlington Creek
its source high up on Allegheny Mountain has a fall of 136.5 feet per mile. Deer
Creek the second largest tributary of the Greenbrier in Pocahontas County he-
ads in Frank Mountain, flows near Greenbank and Arboreale and on to the river
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control And Industry Samuel C Smith Hillsboro, W. Va. Pocahontas Co.
with a rapid fall from its source to the Glades and from there on follows
a very slow sluggish course, a dam could be constructed near the head form-
ing a large basin of several hundred acres a water supply that could furnish
electricity to the entire Little Levels District. Williams River heads on the
west side of Day and Swago Mountain, this is another of Pocahontas Countys str-
eams that can be harnessed and put to work but like many of our other
streams lays back in almost a wilderness and due to lack of roads has not been
opened up and should have a great future in store.

Many of Pocahontas County streams furnished power for the pioneer
to grind corn, run Tilt-Hammers and our old Up & Down saw mills .

Mills run by electricity is the Marlinton mill ,run by gas engines
the Dunmore Mill and the Hillsboro mill the rest are run by water power.
George Williams of near Lobelia has erected a small corn mill that serves
Lobelia and surrounding territory. John P Sharp also has a small corn mill up
in what is known as the brush country.

The water-power development in Pocahontas County is in its infancy
but where ever it has been developed this particular section has grown and
today as find where milling is done the population is larger, stores and post-
offices have come in until they are community centers.

Information--G. A. Prior Marlinton, W. Va. J. O. Morrison Marlinton W. Va.

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